

From: Steve Ericson
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I am deeply concerned by the Proposed Final Judgement put forth by the US DOJ against Microsoft. In particular, I understand that 3rd party not-for-profit projects will not be afforded the same concessions that 3rd party for-profit corporations would. Specifically, Microsoft could withhold important information such as APIs that essentially would prevent open source projects from ever integrating with Microsoft products.

The best hope for a competitive industry would be for a company, possibly not-for-profit, to break the juggernaut that Microsoft has on Office software. One of the barriers to entry in this field is the complexity of the file formats, and it seems that a not-for-profit corporation would not be able to obtain documentation from Microsoft under the terms of the Proposed Final Judgement.

In my opinion, the Proposed Final Judgement does not go far enough in this regard to ensure long-term competition in the software industry.

+Steve